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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – APRIL 24, 2012

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At 8:33 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. for regular business in the Council Chamber. ***May 1, 2012 is Students and Government Day.***

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 in the City Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Numark, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

*

Agenda Item 18 was considered out of order at this time.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Council immediately recessed to closed session to confer with the City Manager and City Attorney on agenda matters listed under 18A) Conference with Labor Negotiator, and 18B Real Property – Conference with Real Property Negotiator, pursuant to California Government Code §54957.6 and 54956.8.

The City Council reconvened at 7:03 p.m. with all members present. No formal action was taken on any matter considered in closed session.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Youth Councilmember Anna Spallino.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Rhilinger.

**3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA / MOTION TO
WAIVE FURTHER READING**

City Clerk Herbers reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, April 19, 2012.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Chief Racowski announced that ExxonMobil would be conducting their monthly Community Alert Siren testing on Wednesday, May 2, at approximately 11:30 a.m., for more information contact ExxonMobil at 310. 212.1852.

Councilmember Numark announced that a City Council Strategic Plan Committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 3, at 3:00 p.m. in the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library meeting room.

Councilmember Brewer announced that City Council budget workshops/hearings will be held on Tuesday, May 8, and Tuesday, May 15, at 7:00 p.m. during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

City Clerk Herbers announced that the reservation link for the Commissioner Certification Training class scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, is now active and will remain until midnight May 2, noting that appointments to fill vacancies will be made at the May 22 City Council meeting.

Mayor Scotto asked that meeting be adjourned in memory of former Torrance Transit employee Tony Stevenson who passed away April 10.

Mayor Scotto asked that the meeting also be adjourned in memory of former Torrance Transit employee Jorge Venegas who passed away April 15.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. INTRODUCTION OF LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN JOE BUSCAINO

Mayor Scotto introduced 15th District representative Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino. Mr. Buscaino stated that he looked forward to working with the City of Torrance on issues of mutual interest.

6B. PRESENTATION OF 2013 TORRANCE ROSE FLOAT ENTRY

Mayor Scotto thanked ACE Clearwater President Kellie Johnson and Vice-President Gary Johnson for their generous donation, which will allow the City of Torrance to continue the long-standing tradition of participating in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

Torrance Rose Float Association President Roseanne Villalobos introduced Tim Estes and Raul Rodriguez of Fiesta Floats who displayed a drawing of the 2013 Rose Float entry entitled "Follow Your Dreams."

6C. PROCLAMATION RE "MUNICIPAL CLERK'S WEEK"

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the week of April 29 through May 5 as Municipal Clerk's Week in the City of Torrance to City Clerk Sue Herbers, Deputy City Clerk Rebecca Poirier, Secretary Gina Semana, and Typist Clerk Elizabeth Pose.

City Clerk Herbers reported that her staff is preparing to post minutes as far back as the 1920s on the City's website.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Rose Villalobos, Torrance Rose Float Association President, announced the following "Restaurants for Roses" fundraisers: Chili's on April 26; China Tea House on May 3; Shakey's Pizza Parlor on May 10; Scardino's on May 17; and Pei Wei on May 31, with additional information available at www.torrancerosefloat.com.

7B. Gavin Wasserman, West Torrance Homeowners Association, reported on the cleanup project at Entradero Park on April 21 and thanked City staff for their assistance.

7C. Gavin Wasserman, Library Commissioner, reminded the public of the many programs available at the Torrance Public Library, noting that additional information is on the library's website and Facebook page.

7D. Debbie Hays, Centennial Committee, announced that as part of the citywide cleanup/beautification program, there will be two cleanup projects on Saturday, April 28, one at Torrance Elementary School and one at Seaside Heroes Park sponsored by the Seaside Homeowners Association.

7E. Janet Payne, Torrance Historical Society, announced that there will be a presentation by Jim Ellingson, retired Torrance Firefighter and historian, to celebrate Torrance Fire Department's 100-year anniversary on Sunday, April 29, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the museum located at 1345 Post Avenue.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of March 6, March 13, and March 20, 2012.

8B. TORRANCE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the Torrance Rose Float Association 2011-2012 Annual Report.

8C. APPROVAL OF YOUTH COUNCIL PARTICIPATION IN RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER EVENT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Torrance Youth Council and the Community Services Director that City Council grant permission to the Youth Council to participate in the Relay for Life American Cancer Society fundraising event at South High School on April 28 and April 29, 2012, and to use and display the City of Torrance logo and the Torrance Youth Council name in conjunction with their team.

8D. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE CITY YARD ABOVE-GROUND STORAGE TANKS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Fire Chief and General Services Director that City Council approve a third amendment to the agreement with Cornerstone Technologies (C2010-88) to extend the term from April 30, 2012 to April 30, 2013 for architectural and engineering services for the City Yard aboveground storage tanks.

MOTION: Councilmember Furey moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8D. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous vote.

10. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

10A. AGREEMENT RE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council approve a Grant/Loan agreement with the South Bay Entrepreneurial Center in the amount of \$100,000 to encourage business growth and job creation within the city.

Economic Development Manager Fulton reported that the City Council approved \$100,000 in funding for the South Bay Entrepreneurial Center in January 2012 and the center was now ready to launch the business incubator using a portion of the funding.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous vote.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL DARK NIGHTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council declare the following Tuesdays as City Council Dark Nights from July 1 through December 31, 2012: July 3, July 31, September 4, October 30, November 13, November 27, and December 25, 2012.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous vote.

12B. STRATEGIC PLAN THREE-YEAR UPDATE CYCLE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council provide direction regarding the Strategic Plan Three Year Update Cycle.

Assistant City Manager Giordano advised that the Action Plan for the 2008 Strategic Plan calls for a telephone survey and environmental scan every three years to determine if revisions to the plan are necessary; that costs for the survey and scan are estimated to be approximately \$130,000; and that staff was seeking direction as to whether the Council wishes to proceed with the survey and/or the scan so that funding can be included in the upcoming budget.

Mayor Scotto, echoed by Councilmember Sutherland, voiced his opinion that it would be prudent to defer the Strategic Plan update until next year due to budget constraints.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to defer the Strategic Plan update until the next budget cycle. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

12C. PREVIEW OF 2012-2013 OPERATING BUDGET

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager and the Finance Director that City Council preview the direction for the 2nd year of the 2011-2013 Operating Budget.

Finance Director Tsao briefly reviewed the actions being considered to rebalance the 2012-2013 Operating Budget per written material of record. He requested input from the Council as to whether staff should explore funding methods for the following items, which would increase the budget:

- Addition of 4 Police Officers to manage the County/State AB109 realignment
- Additional maintenance for expansion of park sites and new landscaping of commercial core medians
- Budget imbalance in Recreation and Cultural Arts Program
- Replacement funding for Home Improvement Program
- Resources for outreach to a second Sister City program
- 2014 Rose Float

Mayor Scotto requested that staff explore options, along with all costs involved, for adding 1 or 2 Police Officers in 2012-2013 and potentially adding another 1 or 2 officers in 2013-2014.

Councilmember Rhlinger indicated that she was not in favor of spending money for outreach to a second Sister City unless someone has a specific city in mind that would benefit economic development.

Councilmember Furey suggested that possibility of using Community Development Block Grant funds for the Home Improvement Program.

In response to Councilmember Brewer's inquiry, Finance Director Tsao clarified that the City has the capital funds to develop the new park site next to the courthouse, but is concerned about the cost to maintain it.

Councilmember Brewer suggested that it might be prudent to delay the development of additional parks/landscaped areas if the City cannot afford to maintain them.

Mayor Scotto suggested that consideration be given to using an outside source to maintain the new park site next to the courthouse on a temporary basis until the City can afford to hire permanent staff.

Councilmember Numark requested that staff provide an update on the Long Beach workers compensation program; that consideration be given to hiring a sales/business development manager to help expand the rental of Cultural Arts Center facilities; and that the budget process include a review the City's cable television operation.

Councilmember Barnett related his belief that adding police officers to deal with the impact of the AB 109 realignment was critically important. He expressed the hope that a means to fund the Home Improvement Program could be found because it is very helpful to the City's seniors.

Gavin Wasserman, Torrance, commented on the difficult choices facing the Council and urged them to preserve funding for City's library system.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to concur with the staff recommendation including additional input from the City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

16. SECOND READING ORDINANCES

16A. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 3757

ORDINANCE NO. 3757

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
ADDING A NEW ARTICLE 13 TO CHAPTER 1, DIVISION 4 OF THE
TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE FEEDING OF BIRDS

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3757 as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote, with Councilmember Barnett abstaining.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Brewer announced that the last day to buy commemorative bricks for the new Centennial Plaza in El Prado Park is May 1, with additional information online at www.TorranceCentennial.org.

17B. Councilmember Brewer invited the public to attend a tree planting at Lago Seco Park in honor of Arbor Day on Sunday, April 29, at 10:30 a.m.

17C. Councilmember Brewer reported that he discussed the future of the Los Angeles Air Force base with the staffs of Congress members Henry Waxman, Maxine Waters and Janice Hahn while in Washington, D.C. last month and Waxman and Hahn, along with Congressman Howard Berman, recently sent a letter to the Pentagon urging that it remain open.

17D. Councilmember Furey offered a reminder that the Torrance Relay for Life takes place this weekend at South High starting on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and ending on Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

17E. Councilmember Numark congratulated South High for organizing a successful blood drive, which produced more than 80 pints, and announced that Torrance High will be holding a blood drive on Wednesday, April 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

17F. Councilmember Rhilinger announced that Old Torrance Festival Day, benefiting the South Bay Police and Fire Memorial Foundation and the Torrance Relay for Life, will be held on Sunday, May 6, from noon to 6:00 p.m. She noted that the event is sponsored by the Torrance Firefighters Association and the Buffalo Fire Department and Depot restaurants and will feature carnival games, live entertainment, a chili cook-off and a display of vintage fire trucks.

17G. Councilmember Sutherland announced that the City was accepting applications for the new Hometown Heroes banner program, noting that brochures and applications are available at the rear of Council Chambers, at public counters around City Hall, and online at www.torranceca.gov/7491.htm.

17H. Councilmember Sutherland reported that he visited the B17 bomber on display at Torrance Airport last weekend with his grandson and thanked Nancy Clinton, the Airport Commission and CERT volunteers for assisting with this event.

17I. Councilmember Barnett invited the public to attend the L.A. Galaxy's City of Torrance night on Sunday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m. at the Home Depot Center, noting that tickets can be reserved by calling 310.630.2235. He noted that a portion of the proceeds will benefit the new Centennial Plaza.

17J. Mayor Scotto announced that the application for the Centennial Parade to be held in Downtown Torrance on September 16 was now available online at www.TorranceCentennial.org and encouraged the various organizations in Torrance, including sports teams, youth groups and civic organizations, to participate.

17K. Mayor Scotto reported that the Downtown Torrance and Waltheria post offices are being considered for closure and encouraged residents to write their representatives in Congress protesting the closures.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:33 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. for regular business in the Council Chamber. ***May 1, 2012 is Students and Government Day.***

***Adjourned in Memory of
Tony Stevenson and Jorge Venegas***

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on June 5, 2012